

Mahoney Lays Out His Plan for Florida's Ethanol Industry

Chairs

Roundtable to Fuel Local Support for Cellulosic Ethanol

(Ft.

Pierce, FL) - Congressman Tim Mahoney

(FL-16) served as the honorary chairman today at the Alternative Energies Roundtable hosted by Indian River Community College and the Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County on the potential economic benefits of clean energy for the Treasure Coast.

"After 30 years of talking about energy independence, Congress is finally doing something about it," said Congressman Mahoney. "As the largest biomass producing state in the nation, I believe Florida has the potential to become the cellulosic ethanol capital of America. I am working hard to bring this new 'green' industry to my district because it will generate thousands of high paying jobs, expand our economy away from construction and attract new research and development centers along our coasts."

Congressman Mahoney discussed his work on cellulosic ethanol, a type of biofuel produced from plant byproducts, and the benefits this industry will bring to South Florida. Unlike corn-based ethanol, cellulosic ethanol does not come from a food source. Instead, it is produced from excess citrus pulp and peel from orange juice processing, bagasse-the biomass remaining after sugarcane is processed-and other items such as switchgrass, sweet sorghum, and waste products.

Since taking office, Mahoney has worked with private industry to develop a cellulosic ethanol industry in Florida. In the past year, five new businesses have been announced to build cellulosic ethanol plants in Mahoney's district.

Congressman Mahoney has sponsored and supported legislation related to alternative energy including:

Energy Bill, H.R. 6

As part of the Energy Bill that passed the House last year, Congressman Mahoney worked with Chairman Ed Markey last year to ensure that as much as 100 million gallons of cellulosic ethanol will be blended into gasoline beginning in 2010. The Bill mandates that by 2022, 6 billion gallons of

cellulosic ethanol will be blended into gasoline. This accelerated mandate ensures that private industry will begin immediately investing in the research and development necessary to accomplish this goal.

In addition, the Energy Bill includes the following provisions:

Corporate Average Fuel Economy (Café Standards)

- Beginning in 2011, fuel efficiency standards must start moving toward a 2020 deadline of 35 mpg for all passenger vehicles.

Reduces Global Warming

- Cuts greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 by 24 percent of what is needed to save the planet.

- Increased vehicle fuel efficiency which has the equivalent effect of taking 28 million vehicles off the road.

- Increases the efficiency of buildings, homes, appliances, and lighting.

Lowers Energy Costs

- Increased vehicle fuel efficiency will save American families \$700 to \$1,000 a year at the pump.

- New fuel efficiency standards will produce \$22 billion in net annual savings for consumers in 2020.

- Building, appliance, and lighting efficiency will save consumers \$400 billion through 2030.

Creates Jobs

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Massive development of biofuels and cutting-edge energy research will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs.
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Job training will prepare workers for 3 million new 'green' jobs over 10 years
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Small businesses will be renewable energy leaders.

Farm Bill, H.R. 2419

As the only Member of Congress from Florida to serve on the House Agriculture Committee, Mahoney has led the effort to promote research and investment in cellulosic ethanol in the Farm Bill. Mahoney's work on the Farm Bill related to ethanol includes:

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Creating an Ethanol Loan Guarantee Program;
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Research and development funding for Ethanol Technologies;
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Expanding federal programs to include all of Florida's biomass sources.

Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act, H.R. 5351

Congressman Mahoney spoke on the floor of the House of Representatives on this legislation, which would amend the Internal Revenue Code and create tax cuts for biofuels that will decrease dependence on foreign oil, lower gas prices and increase production of renewable electricity and renewable fuels.

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